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BOX NON-FEE  
AMENDMENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: P. Lippens et al.

Attorney Docket No.: CASM116373

Application No.: 09/673,428

Group Art Unit: 3722

Filed: December 5, 2000

Examiner: Catherine A. Simone

Title: SECURITY ELEMENT TO PREVENT COUNTERFEITING  
OF VALUE DOCUMENTS

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E. J. J. J.  
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Seattle, Washington 98101

September 12, 2002

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement made in the above-identified application in an Office Action dated August 12, 2002. More specifically, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.143, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement. The restriction requirement was made on the basis that claims 1 to 32 do not share the same special technical features which make an advance over U.S. Patent No. 4,849,618 (the '618 patent). The '618 patent was cited in the International Search Report and International Preliminary Examination Report issued with respect to the corresponding PCT application.

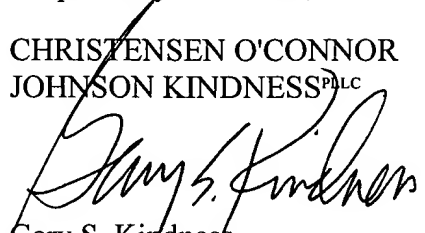
Applicants respectfully disagree. The '618 patent fails to disclose the feature of the embossed layer having the form of a diffraction grating device. This feature was incorporated into claim 1 during International Preliminary Examination, and the resultant International Preliminary Examination Report distinguishes the security element defined in claim 1 over the disclosure of the '861 patent. Since all other claims on file are dependent on claim 1, applicants submit that all claims share the same "special technical features."

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While applicants believe that the restriction requirement is in error and should be withdrawn, applicants provisionally elect claims 1-18 for prosecution in this application if the restriction requirement is maintained.

Respectfully submitted,

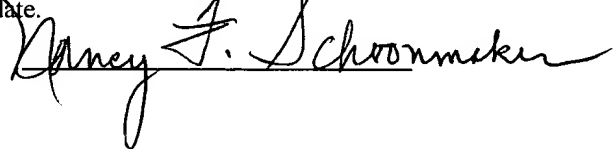
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on the below date.

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